THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMEO): (a) During the visit of Rashtrapatiji to the Republic of Korea (RoK) from Februrary 6-9, 2006, the following agreements were signed: Agreement concerning Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters; Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology; Joint Ministerial Statement on the launching of a Joint Task Force to develop a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of India and the Republic of Korea; and a Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India and the Korea Industrial Technology Foundation.

(b) The Joint Task Force has been mandated to develop a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries. The implementation of other agreements will promote further development of bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, and science and technology.

(c) Rashtrapatiji's visit was the first ever visit by an Indian President to the RoK. The visit has helped in maintaining contacts at the highest level and further strengthened the India-RoK relations.

Agreement with Philippines

1043: SHRI JAIPARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any agreements with Government of Philippines;

(b) if so, the details of each of such agreements;

(c) whether Government of Philippines have agreed to provide techniques for high yield variety of rice to the Indian farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when it would be available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have signed the following three agreements with the Government of Philippines: (i) Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in Agriculture and related fields; (ii) Agreement on cooperation in the field and Tourism; and (iii) Agreement of Defence cooperation.

(c) No, Sir. No such discussions have taken place. Under the MoU on cooperation in Agriculture and related fields, both India and Philippines will conduct joint activities which may, *inter-alia,* include the areas of rice production and processing. The Government of India would work for the mutual benefit of farmers of both the countries.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

People killed in Haj stampede

1044. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many people were killed and injured in a stampede on 12th January, 2006 in a scramble to hurl pebbles at symbols of Satan in Mina, Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details of Indians killed and injured;

(c) the amount of compensation paid by Saudi Arabia Government and the Indian Government to the injured and the families of those killed; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that bodies of all deceased are brought and handed over to their relatives in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) The details of the deceased and injured Indians are given in Statement-I. (See below)

(c) Nil. The next of kin of such deceased and injured Indians who performed Haj through the Haj Committee of India are entitled to compensation under the Group Accident Compensation Scheme of the Haj Committee of India. The details of the Scheme are given in Statement-II. (See below)

(d) The relatives of the deceased decided to arrange the burials in the Holy City of Makkah and not to send the bodies home.